

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 1-11 and amended claims 1-9 filed on December 9, 2004, all of the claims set forth in the specification of the application, without prejudice.

Claims 1-9 (cancelled).

10.(New) A hair clip which includes two combs and at least one elastic member resiliently to bias teeth of the combs into an interleaved arrangement with one another, each comb having opposed first and second surfaces, wherein:

a) the widths of the teeth of each comb are slightly wider than the widths of spaces adjacent the teeth; and

b) the teeth of each comb are shaped with tapering sides on both first and second surfaces thereof in order to inter-fit with the teeth of the other comb, such that at least portions of at least selected teeth of each comb fit partially into spaces of the other comb,

whereby, when the teeth of the combs are interleaved from opposite directions, with some of the teeth of one comb overlaying and others underlaying the teeth of the other comb and such teeth being biased towards one another, at least some of such overlaying and underlaying teeth interact with one another to form clamps for clamping hair between the two combs in use.

11.(New) A hair clip according to claim 10 wherein at least the selected teeth are substantially elliptical in cross-section to provide arcuate tapers substantially along their length.

12.(New) A hair clip according to claim 10 wherein all of the teeth are wider than the spaces between the teeth and all are of substantially the same width.

13.(New) A hair clip according to claim 10 wherein the width of the teeth is about 0.5 to 2 mm wider than the width of the spaces between the teeth of the comb with which such teeth are to be interleaved in use.

14.(New) A hair clip according to claim 10 wherein the combs are made of a resiliently flexible material.

15.(New) A hair clip according to claim 10 wherein the elastic member includes a length of elastic material and a plurality of beads threaded onto the length of elastic material.

16.(New) A method of fastening hair using a hair clip which has two combs and at least one elastic member to bias teeth of the combs towards each other, the combs being movable independently of each other and selected teeth of the combs being wider

than spaces between teeth with which such selected teeth are to be interleaved in use, which includes the steps of:

- (A) inserting one of the combs into the hair in a first direction;
- (B) stretching the elastic member;
- (C) inserting the other comb into the hair in a second direction substantially opposed to the first direction; and
- (D) twisting the combs relatively to each other while inserting them into engagement, such that some of the teeth of one comb overlay and others underlay the teeth of the other comb so as to clamp hair between the two combs.

17.(New) A method according to claim 16 wherein the twisting is performed by rotating one comb relatively to the other.

18.(New) A method according to claim 16 wherein the twisting is performed by distorting at least one combs about an axis substantially parallel to the length of the teeth of the comb.